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T H E
LOG LODGE

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THE LOG LODGE

BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND

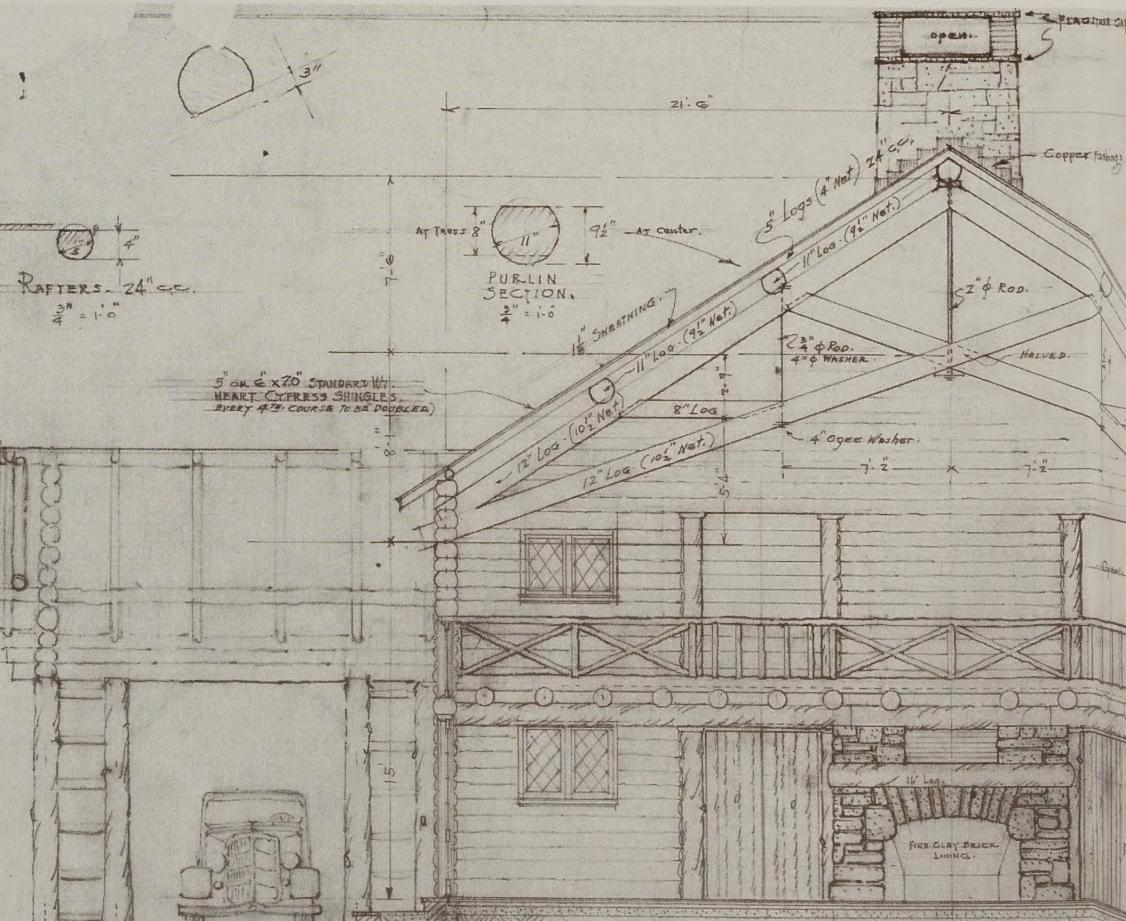
This building, popularly known as the Log Lodge, represents the beginning of an important and memorable era in this century. It was built as a recreation center for men assigned to four Civilian Conservation Corps camps in the area.

The CCC, created in 1933, was one of the first Government-sponsored work programs to ease the unemployment situation of the time and help the nation fight its way out of the Great Depression. Some 3 to 4 million men at one time or another were enrolled in CCC.

The Lodge was built between 1934 and 1937. It was started by the men of the Public Works Administration, but work stopped when the structure was four logs high. It was completed in 1937 by the CCC.

The building was modeled after lodges in Yellowstone National Park. All logs and lumber used in the building came from trees growing on "the farm" as the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center was known then. Only the hardware, windows, stones for the fireplaces, etc., came from other sources.

The logs were cut from the straightest and tallest trees on the farm. Most are pine. The big uprights are white oaks. Some of the timbers are 40 to 50 feet long. A sawmill was set up at the site to cut them to size. The logs were then treated with a preservative and put into place.

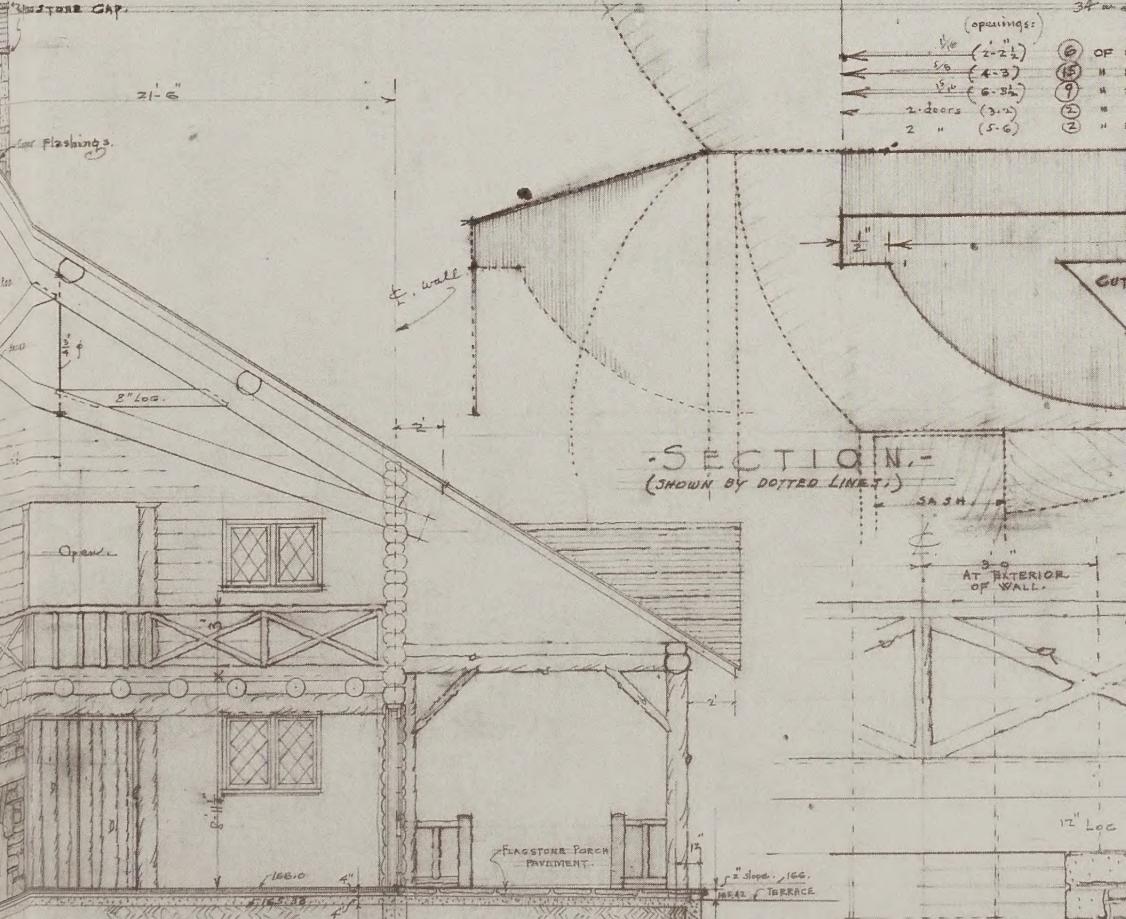


The Log Lodge was used by the CCC for recreational purposes until the CCC was disbanded in 1942. CCC work embodied many activities including natural resource conservation projects such as planting trees, fighting fires and constructing buildings, bridges, and roads. In fact, the same groups that completed the Log Lodge hard-surfaced Powder Mill Road through the Research Center.

After 1942, the Log Lodge was converted into a cafeteria and continued in use for that purpose until 1985.

It was the scene of many VIP luncheons during its service as a cafeteria. Its more famous patrons included President and Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Secretary of Agriculture and Mrs. Ezra Taft Benson, Secretary of Agriculture and Mrs. Orville Freeman, Russian Premier and Mrs. Nikita Khrushchev.

In renovating the Log Lodge, every effort was made to maintain the original appearance of the exterior.



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